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of adoption, of polygyny, all serve to maintain the line. Let us leave the question of design, of telos, aside. With this type of diachronic orientation[1] is correlated--again the question of cause and effect aside--many intricacies of the kinship terminology. For instance, the son's son is called by the same term as the brother's son: the collateral line is downgraded a generation in this equation. Implied is a reservoir of kin upon whom one may draw to help perpetuate one's line. For brother's son adoption is the most common kind of adoption, and a ready-to-hand relationship exists for continuation of the line should there be no son, or should the son die without male issue.

M. - T.P. [597]

000 To the diachronically oriented family is contrasted the synchronically oriented family, found in the patronymic-sib societies. In families of the synchronically oriented type--and in the sibs in which they are found--ancestors are venerated and a few outstanding ones worshipped individually, but for the most part they are not singled out; they are worshipped en masse. In the matter of inheritance, there is no notion of a patrimony being held in trust for the future. While property is not dissipated necessarily, interest and concern in its retention may be imputed to an acquisitive ethos, rather than to the conception of a corporate unit as a trust. The synchronic orientation of the family of this kind fits excellently with the structure of the patronymic-sib, which is a flat

[1] [cf. cat. 116, p. 32 -- Analyst]